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**GOVERNOR NEWTON CANNON
PAPERS
1835-1839
(GP 11)**

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SCOPE AND CONTENT NOTE

With the administration of Newton Cannon, the business of state government increased not only in volume but in intensity. There was also some evidence of an increase in the cost of labor as well as of government. The number of functionaries in the state government commenced to multiply. For instance, on Carey A. Harris, formerly chief clerk of the War Department (for a time acting Secretary of War) devolved the duty of finding, at the behest of Governor Cannon, of a man for the new position of State Engineer.

Railroads began to develop prominence in the economy. So many were there that the bonds of some of the less attractive roads began to suffer from unpopularity. Difficulty was reported in the sale of some issues by banks or other fiscal agencies. There evolved an odd practice in the matter of the making of bonds for proper performance by county official, mainly county court clerks. Most of these functionaries made bond for performance of the same duty in more than one amount. It did not become necessary in any case to fall back on one of these divers bonds, so the system, not being called into operation, worked satisfactorily.

During the Cannon administration occurred the removal of the several tribes of the southeastern Indians to the area west of the Mississippi which was to become known as the Indian Territory, later the State of Oklahoma. Much has been written on this series of happenings, but not too much appears in published history concerning the connection with the movement of John Howard Payne, the author of "Home, Sweet Home". This individual, apparently a self-styled champion of Indian rights, was at one time arrested by the Georgia Militia and finally by that body removed from the boundaries of the state. He filed a complete report of his treatment by the Georgians under a letter of transmittal to the Governor of Tennessee; the letter of transmittal is on file, but the enclosure extracted.

It was during the Cannon Administration that the individual states began to take official notice of the existence of Negro slavery by the publication of legislative resolutions; in the main, it was the avowed practice of the non-slave-holding state to officially disavow interest in the subject.

The prison system underwent certain refinement, consisting of the appointment of "agents" whose duty was to oversee and report when necessary on the conduct of certain prisoners. Thus developed gradually that parole system currently in vogue.

During the Cannon administrations occurred the events which involved Tennessee in foreign affairs. Highlights were the Alamo Massacre, the War for Texas Independence and the formation of the Republic of Texas. An instance of direct impact of these developments was action by the regular Army having to do with the "protection of the western frontier of the United States". The War Department issued a call for the formation of volunteer companies, to be made up from the Tennessee Militia regiments. It is interesting to note the objects for which these companies were raised. Even in the militia, there were varying ideas as to this object; significant it is, however, that there was a multitude of volunteers, a refreshing attitude when considered in the light of present-day thinking.

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE

Governor Newton Cannon

1781, May 22	Born in Guilford County, North Carolina.
1790	Came with parents to the frontier settlement of Cumberland.
1813, August 26	Married Leah Pryor Perkins who died in 1816.
1818, August 27	Married Rachel Starnes Willborn.
1827	Defeated in gubernatorial campaign by Sam Houston.
1835	Defeated William Carroll for governor. Re-Elected in 1837.
1839	Defeated for re-election by James K. Polk.
1841 September 16	Died.

CONTAINER LIST

Box 1

1. Correspondence- Governor Cannon- 1837-1838
2. Correspondence- General to Cannon, Brown-Wright, 1835
3. “ - General- Allen- Jacobs, 1836
4. “ “ - Lawrence-Woods, 1836
5. “ “ - Bass-Summerville, 1837
6. “ “ - Armstrong-Ewing, 1838
7. “ “ - Forsyth-McClain, 1838
8. “ “ - Neilson-Yeager, 1838
9. “ “ - Allen-Hollins, 1839
10. “ “ - Maney-Young, 1839
11. “ -Felix Grundy to Governor Cannon, 1838
12. “ - Gideon Pillow to Governor Cannon, 1838
13. “ - Winfield Scott to Governor Cannon, 1838
14. “ - Miscellaneous- Brown-William, 1836-1838

Box 2

1. Correspondence- Miscellaneous- Lawrence-Smith, 1837
2. Correspondence- Miscellaneous- Calbreath-Smith, 1838
3. Resolutions, 1836-1838
4. Bonds- County Court Clerks- 1835-1836
5. Miscellaneous Materials- 1836-1838
6. Petitions for Pardon- 1835
7. Petitions for Pardon- 1836
8. Petitions for Pardon of Joseph L. Wilson- 1836
9. Petitions for Pardon- 1837
10. Petitions for Pardon- 1838

Box 3

1. Petitions for Pardons- 1839
2. Military Papers- 1836-1838
3. Executive Orders- 1836-1838
4. Commissions- Justice of the Peaces- 1836-1839
5. Governor's Message- 1836.

NAME INDEX

This index contains names of persons holding influential positions during the period. In some instances, however, correspondence is included because the content is important enough to warrant attention in the index. The figures in the parentheses immediately following each name denote the total number of letters in the folder from that person. The identification of the writer and the site from where the letters were written are included whenever possible.

Box 1, Folder 3, 1836

William Carroll (1). Former governor of Tennessee.
Chersant (1), Philadelphia. Consul of France.
C.C. Clay (1), Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Governor of Alabama.
General S. D. Jacob (1), Knoxville.

Box 1, Folder 4, 1836

A. M. Lea (2), Baltimore, Maryland. Inquires about employment as state engineer.
A. P. Maury (1), Washington, D.C. Comments on 1836 election which Democrats lost.
Eastin Morris (1), LaGrange, Georgia. President of LaGrange and Memphis Railroad Company.

Box 1, Folder 5, 1837

James Clark (1), Frankford, Kentucky. Governor of Kentuck.
George M. Gilmer (1), Millidgeville, Georgia. Governor of Georgia.
General S. D. Jacobs (2) Knoxville.
Major General M. J. Jessup (1), Tampa Bay, Florida. Request for Tennessee to supply 1200 men to prosecute the war in Florida.
A. M. Lea (1), Baltimore, Maryland. Accepts employment as Chief Engineer for Tennessee.
Edward Southwick (1), Seneca, New York. Lengthy discussion of his views on the slavery problem.

Box 1, Folder 6, 1838

Robert L. Caruthers (2), Lebanon, Tennessee. U.S. Congressman from Tennessee.

Box 1, Folder 7, 1838

Ephraim H. Foster (1), Nashville. Accepts position as United States Senator following resignation of Felix Grundy.
S. D. Jacobs (2), Knoxville.

Box 1, Folder 8, 1838

C. Michie (4), LaGrande, Georgia.

Edward Southwick (1), Farmington, New York. Lengthy discussion of his views on the slavery problem.

James Walker (1), Columbia. Prominent businessman of the period.

James A. Whiteside (1), Pikeville, Tennessee.

Box 1, Folder 9, 1839

James Armstrong (2), Beech Grove, Tennessee.

Box 1 Folder 10, 1839

C. W. Nance (2), Rutherford County, Tennessee.

James A. Whiteside (1), Ross's Landing, Tennessee.